

## Requiescat in Pace!

Pope Francis died today on April 21 2025. Yesterday he had still given the blessing Urbi et Orbi.

We have all been following the pope's illness in recent days and at some point even suspected that he would not live to celebrate Easter. Now the moment has come when his term of office ended with his dismissal by the Lord.

At 88, the Holy Father was one of the oldest popes in Church history and spent a significant time at the head of the Church. During his time in office, he met countless people from all over the world and was often tempted to make unexpected visits.

Pope Francis was known for seeking closeness to people, be it through spontaneous visits or by celebrating Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday in prisons instead of in the Lateran Basilica. His commitment to social causes was unmistakable, and he often spoke about social justice and the Church's responsibility for the poor and disadvantaged as well as bioethics. He wrote numerous letters, including on St Francis de Sales and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Pope Francis can also be counted among the so-called travelling popes. His numerous apostolic journeys took him to many countries, especially developing and emerging nations.

We are aware that Pope Francis has had a polarising effect during his pontificate. But let us remember one principle of good manners: We should not speak ill of the recently deceased. It is not for us to judge someone who has already met his true judge. Rather, let us pray for Pope Francis, mindful of the fact that we too must give an account before God one day.

Requiem æternam dona ei, Domine. Et lux perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace.